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Funded by Health Education England (HEE), working across North Central and East London (NCEL), our Academy delivers a research fellowship scheme for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. It aims to raise levels of research activity amongst this group of staff and develop future research leaders.

Pinkie Chambers is a senior pharmacist with over 10 years experience within both University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH) and The London Cancer network. Her year with us focused on improving patient experience and outcomes for chemotherapy.

Pinkie Chambers is a pharmacist dedicated to improving chemotherapy patient experience in her UCLH role. The Fellowship was an opportunity to improve care processes and evaluate improvement initiatives, as well as hone Pinkie’s research:

*“I had decided that I wanted to do a PhD but I really needed to refine my topic area. I had applied previously to a pharmacy specific grant and been unsuccessful as my topic area was unachievable.”*

On using research to tackle big issues around the current chemotherapy pathway Pinkie observed:

*“There are many areas where research would be valuable to improve our chemotherapy processes of care. There are also areas for more methodologically robust evaluations of improvements*

*e.g. the use of apps to improve toxicity. There is a huge gap in data science in chemotherapy, an area which I would like to base my research around.”*

Pinkie reflected on combining CLAHRC research with NHS work:

*“I find that research commitments are in peaks and troughs whilst the NHS work is always quite steady. Following my scoping review, there were many areas that I wanted to drive forward in practice. These additional commitments made my life a little stressful at times. I’m also a parent of 2 young children and when I was going through really busy periods, my family would miss out. I am very fortunate that at UCLH I am surrounded by clinical academics in similar positions. It was actually really helpful hearing anecdotes from colleagues*

*about how trials took three years to open and how they missed out on weekends with their children too to get a grant in that ended up unsuccessful.”*

Pinkie is now a “research ambassador” at UCLH:

*“I set up a journal club. I am using some ideas that I have to develop research proposals for others. I am also evaluating research activity within my team of 25 following my return.”*

Pinkie summed up her year:

*“Even outside the areas that I have researched I now have an awareness of research methods such as economics and qualitative methods. I read papers in a completely different way now. Patient and public involvement was an area that I had little awareness of but I can’t imagine doing anything without it! .”*